

PROCEEDINGS
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TWO NEW POLECATS RELATED TO *MUSTELA*
LARVATA.

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The polecats now referred to *Mustela (Putorius) larvata* are divisible into at least three well marked forms, which, in the absence of intermediate specimens, may be called species. The great variations in color exhibited by the series in the United States National Museum prove to be geographic, not individual, and in the two cases where there are three skins from one locality the specimens are remarkably uniform in color and markings. The animal is rare in collections and, unfortunately, we have no specimen from the type locality of *larvata*, southwestern Tibet, near the border of Nepal. The good description of the original specimen of that form, supplemented by the remarks on an additional example by Horsfield (Cat. Mamm. Mus. East India Co., pp. 105-106) shows it to be of a decidedly different color from either of the new forms described in this paper. Mr. Thomas has recently expressed the opinion that Kastschenko's *Putorius evermanni michnoi* is a form of *larvata* rather than of *evermanni* (Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., IX, p. 393, April, 1912). From a study of the description,* with specimens from various localities before me, I find it agrees better with a Siberian specimen of *evermanni* than with any specimen of the *larvata* group in the National Museum. Some specimens of the two animals are, however, superficially much alike, and mutilated trappers' skins without skulls might readily be confused. Only a direct comparison can settle the

* Ann. Mus. Zool., St. Petersburg, XV, No. 3, p. 271, 1910.

question, but *nichnoi* is at any rate a different animal from either of the forms here described.

***Mustela lineiventer* sp. nov.**

Type from Tehegan-Burgazi Pass, Little Altai, Siberia; 9000 feet. United States National Museum No. 175,440, ♂ adult, skin and skull. Collected July 10, 1912, by N. Hollister. Orig. No. 4281.

General characters.—A polecat related to *larvata*, with light colored head; tail with black only on tip; and underparts with pectoral and inguinal black areas connected by only a narrow median stripe of light brown, the middle underparts of body otherwise clear cream-buff.

Color of type.—Ring around nose pad, lips, chin, upper throat, cheeks, and area between eye and ear white, very slightly mixed with brownish. Ring around eyes, mask across forehead, and tufts in front of ears dark bister. Top of head drab-gray (mixed white, buff and gray); nape and upper back between shoulders rich golden-buff, then paler buff (with more mixture of white); lower back with long black-tipped overlying hairs. Tail brownish-buff above and below, with bushy black tip. Lower throat, breast, arms to shoulders, anal and inguinal regions, and legs to hips pure black; the two areas of black connected by a narrow median line of brownish. Rest of underparts and sides forward buffy-white.

Measurements of type and two topotypes, all fully adult:

	♂ type 175,440 mm.	♂ 175,441 mm.	♀ 175,439 mm.
Head and body	480	440	410
Tail vertebrae	170	168	170
Hind foot, without claws	72	63	61
SKULLS			
Condylbasal length	75.5	70.2	69.4
Zygomatic breadth	47	46.6	41
Least postorbital breadth	12.5	12.6	11.2
Upper molar-premolar row	17.7	17.4	17.8
Length of mandible	48.7	44.9	43.3
Lower molar-premolar row	22.6	21.0	21.5

***Mustela tiarata* sp. nov.**

Type from Chiu-ning-chow, 150 miles east of Lanchow, Kansu, China; 5500 feet. United States National Museum No. 155,160, skin and skull of immature ♂ (permanent dentition in place but basal and nasal sutures open). Collected July 24, 1909, by Arthur de C. Sowerby. Orig. No. 196.

General characters.—A *larvata*-like polecat with face and top of head dark bister, the mask very faintly defined or entirely obscured owing to the uniformity of color. Tail with basal third brown, terminal two-thirds

black. Underparts with pectoral and inguinal areas of black connected by a median stripe of blackish, the middle underparts of body otherwise griseous.

Color of type.—Ring around nose pad, lips, and chin pure white; between eye and ear gray; rest of face, including ring around eye, base of ear, and top of head, dark bistre. Ears, except at base, pure white. Back of head, nape, and forward half of back uniform dark tawny-olive; posterior half of back with long overlying hairs with black ends. Tail at base brown, the terminal two-thirds black. Throat, breast, arms to shoulders, anal region, groin, and legs pure black; the two black areas connected by a narrow grayish-black band; rest of underparts clouded grayish-buff.

Measurements of type.—Head and body, 390 mm.; tail vertebræ, 150; hind foot, without claws, 93; ear, 33. Skull: Condylbasal length, 66.7; zygomatic breadth, 38.5; least postorbital breadth, 14.5; upper molar-premolar row, 18.5; length of mandible, 43.3; lower molar-premolar row, 21.4.

Specimens examined.—Three from the type locality.